

Archwiliad Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Newydd Sir Fynwy 2018-2033 Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033 Examination

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Craig O'Connor
Chief Officer – Place & Community Well-being
Monmouthshire County Council

2 June 2026

Dear Mr O'Connor

Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) – Request for Postponement of Hearing Sessions

Thank you for your letter dated 1 June 2026 regarding the above matter.

As the Council has failed to comply with the requirements of Regulation 23 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005, we agree that **the Hearing Sessions scheduled to commence on 16 June 2026 must be postponed** until this omission has been remedied.

We are equally committed to minimising disruption to the Examination timetable and managing available publicly-funded resources as judiciously and efficiently as possible. However, in addition to allowing adequate time for statutory requirements to be observed, the impending summer recess period and availability of the Inspectors and Programme Officer have to be factored in.

The earliest date for commencement of the hearing sessions, mindful of the requirements of Regulation 23, would overlap with the commencement of the school summer holiday period, which our original timetable specifically sought to avoid due to the restrictions this may place on some participants' availability. It would be unreasonable and inequitable to commence and conduct hearing sessions wholly during this period and potentially prejudice the participation of representors who had indicated their desire to speak. To ensure that as few eligible participants as possible are inconvenienced by the Council's error, and taking account of Inspector and Programme Officer commitments, the earliest available date for commencement of the hearing sessions is Tuesday 8 September 2026. A revised Hearings Programme based on this date will be issued shortly.

Save for the outstanding consultation response from Natural Resources Wales in respect of the Council's Habitats Regulations Assessment addendum submitted on 30 April 2026, unless specifically asked for, we will not be accepting further written submissions from any party in advance of the commencement of the Hearing Sessions on 8 September 2026.

If any of the matters we have set out above are unclear, please contact the Programme Officer as soon as possible.

This letter will be published on the Examination website. We are not inviting any comments or responses from interested parties.

Yours sincerely,

J de-Courcey and C MacFarlane

INSPECTORS